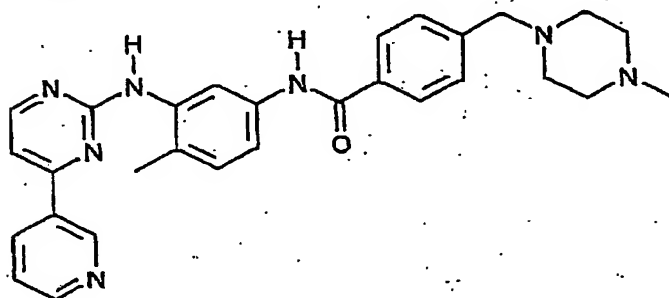


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Claims:

1. The use of 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-yl-amino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt.

3. The use according to claim 2 wherein 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I is in the form of the monomethanesulfonate salt.

4. The use according to anyone of the preceding claims for the treatment of severe rheumatoid arthritis.

5. The use according to anyone of the preceding claims for the treatment of DMARD-resistant rheumatoid arthritis.

6. A method of treating humans suffering from rheumatoid arthritis which comprises administering to said human in need of such a treatment a dose of 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the compound of formula I is in the form of the monomethanesulfonate salt.
8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the monomethanesulfonate salt of the compound of formula I is administered at a daily dose corresponding to 100 to 1000 mg of the compound of formula I free base.
9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the daily dose corresponds to 200 to 800 mg of the compound of formula I free base.
10. The method for according to anyone of claims 6 to 9 wherein the administration is once daily for a period exceeding 3 months.
11. A method of treating mammals suffering from rheumatoid arthritis which comprises administering to said mammal in need of such a treatment a pharmaceutical composition comprising
 - (a) a dose, effective against rheumatoid arthritis, of 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and
 - (b) a therapeutically effective amount of a second drug selected from the disease modifying arthritis rheumatoid drugs (DMARDs).
12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the second drug (b) is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.
13. The method according to claim 11 wherein the second drug (b) is an anti-inflammatory steroidal drug.
14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the second drug (b) is prednisone.
15. Use of a combination which comprises (a) 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and
 - (b) a second drug selected from the disease modifying arthritis rheumatoid drugs (DMARDs) for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

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16. A combination which comprises synergistically effective amounts of (a) 4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino]phenyl]-benzamide of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and
(b) a second drug selected from the disease modifying arthritis rheumatoid drugs (DMARDs).

17. The combination according to claim 16 wherein (b) the second drug is selected from prednisone, cyclosporine and hydroxychloroquine.

18. The combination according to claim 17 wherein the combination partners are present in synergistically effective amounts.

19. The combination according to any one of claims 16 to 18 wherein the molar ratio (a)/(b) of the combination partners is between 0.1 to 10.

20. A combination according to claim 19 wherein the molar ratio is between 0.3 to 3.